Implementation of Central Projects

24. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have tightened the noose on implementation of all Central Projects especially those in infrastructure sector involving an investment of Rs. 50 crore and above;

(b) if so, whether guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance during June, 2003 sought to curb the time and cost over-runs, ensure judicious use of scarce plan funds and remove indifference in quality of project formulation and appraisal which could lead to bottlenecks in implementation;

(c) whether any deadline was set for Central Projects, State-owned interprises;

(d) if so, how many States have so far responded; and

(e) what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waiver of custom duty on 91 items

25. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to waive custom duty on 91 items during WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancun in September, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the impact of such decision on the domestic industries; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interest of domestic industries from its adverse impact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. The issue relating to waiver of customs duty on 91 items was not discussed during the WTO Ministerial conference at Cancun in September, 2003.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.